



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lottery process successful – NHH’s first Citizens’ Advisory Panel to begin meetings October 24

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, October 23, 2009 – Twenty-eight residents of west Northumberland County have committed five of their Saturdays from October, November and December to bring the community’s perspective to potential choices related to service provided at NHH.

The Panel is the public extension of the Hospital’s collaborative budget strategy, *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution*. While \$1.4 M in operating efficiencies have been identified with input from internal stakeholders (staff, physicians and volunteers) since the budget strategy was introduced in December, NHH continues to forecast a deficit. Operating costs continue to rise, the demand for services continues to grow and revenues are not keeping pace with inflation.

The decision to proceed with the creation of an advisory panel was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors in August. The Hospital gathered input on the possible methods of community engagement in a spring telephone survey. Asked how they preferred to be engaged by the Hospital on matters related to service decisions, the phone survey (together with a supplemental face-to-face survey of lower-income residents) ranked advisory panels and public forums as residents’ leading preference.

The resulting plan was shaped by a collaborative of four parties:

- the Hospital Board, providing governance oversight;
- external consultants from MASS LBP with expertise in public engagement;
- researchers from Queen’s School of Business with expertise in resource allocation decision-making and program evaluation; and
- funding partner, the Northumberland Community Futures Development Corporation

Similar to the method used for selecting a jury for a court of law, members in the Panel have been selected using a random civic lottery process. 5,000 local households received invitations to participate in the process earlier this fall. No specialized knowledge about the Hospital or the health care system was required, but recent experience with the Hospital was deemed necessary for a minimum of 50 per cent of the final participants.

Applicants were required to be 18 years of age or older, and be available to commit to participation on the full five Saturdays required. Current staff, volunteers and physicians with privileges at the Hospital were not eligible to participate in the CAP.

MASS LBP drew the names of the 28 Advisory Panel members through a random draw. Working with the applications received, all efforts possible were made to balance the group by age, geographic representation and sex.

The participants of NHH's first Citizens' Advisory Panel, listed alphabetically by each of the three regions or wards that make up the Hospital's catchment area, are as follows:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3
Robert Berry	Kathleen Boulter	Kathy Anderson
David Bradshaw	Matthew Dwyer	Margo Harnden
Becky Brown	Randal Hunt	David Hickey
Don McKenzie	Mohammad Kundan	Andrew Holt
Heather McKeown	Ron Linton	Frank Mastinek
Susan Speirs	Yatinkumar Patel	Richard O'Toole
Phil Taylor	David Patterson	Tom Parks
Barb Von Boetticher	Madge Pedersen	Herman Van der Veen
Teresa Williams	Pat Stanley	
Elaine West	Wendy Tomlinson	

Ward 1 = Municipality of Port Hope; Ward 2 = Town of Cobourg; Ward 3 = Townships of Hamilton, Alnwick/Haldimand and Cramahe)

The Panelists will meet each other for the first time this Saturday, October 24.

To read more about the Panel process, please go to the Hospital's website at www.nhh.ca. For further information please contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – About Northumberland Hills Hospital – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed acute care hospital delivers a broad range of services, including emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care and obstetrical care. A variety of ambulatory care clinics are also offered at NHH. In addition to these, NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs close to 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.